

*ATTACHMENT F*

Good afternoon,

My name is Curt Thomas. I have been a Correctional Officer at Nevada State Prison for the past 12 years. I have spoke on the issue of NSP several times at past Prison board meetings. Here we are again.

I have a few questions for the Governor.

If the Governor does in fact have the authority to close NSP by executive order, why has he not done it before? Why has he waited until he lost the primary and has no chance for re election?

If it was found to be impractical to close NSP in the past when it was projected that it would save over 12 million dollars, why is it practical to close it now when it is expected, as it states in his own press release, to save only 3 million dollars?

If NSP is unsafe, as also stated in his press release, why does the Dept send high risk, assaultive or death row inmates to NSP when they come to Carson City? When Northern Nevada Correctional Center or Warm Springs Correctional center has an assaultive inmate why do they transfer them to NSP? Why doesn't NSP transfer our assaultive inmates to them? How many staff or inmates have been injured there in the recent past? Of those that have, how many can be attributed to the design flaws of the facility? Is the assault rate at NSP higher than other prisons in the State? As a matter of fact, the vast majority of staff believes it is the safest facility in Carson City! Ask them!

Please point out to all of us here now what the safety concerns, design flaws and inefficiencies of NSP are. If those are your reasons for closing NSP you should be able to spell it out in detail.

I challenge the Governor to tell us which parts of NSP are "over 100 years old"! If he can put it out as fact in his own press release, he surely can tell us what units, towers or support buildings are over 100 years old! I will tell you, NONE! Everything there has been rebuilt, updated or in most cases built within the last 30 years!

As for his statement, also in his press release, about union control of the legislature, the truth is, not very many staff belong to a union! Could it be that the legislature was just able to see the impracticality of closing NSP?

The last time we were facing closure, Director Skolnik told the staff at NSP that if it were to close and inmate population increased throughout the state "then were screwed". That is a direct quote from him.

The extra cost of housing inmates at NSP is in great part due to the fact that in the past couple years units at NSP were closed down. That dropped the population of inmates which in turn, raised the cost per inmate! The closure of units 5, 8 and 13, I believe, were just a tactic to help build the case for closing the entire institution.

I understand and sympathize with the current fiscal problems of the State, but is closing a much needed prison, when it will save relatively few dollars, the wisest choice?

I respectfully ask the board to reconsider the Governors directive to close Nevada State Prison.

Thank you,

Curt Thomas